cartridge drive. The memory, hard drives, floppy disks, etc., are types of computer-readable media. The invention is not particularly limited to any type of computer **310**.

Monitor **312** permits the display of information within a viewing area, including video and other information, for viewing by a user of the computer. The invention is not limited to any particular monitor **312**, and monitor **312** is one type of display device that may be used by the invention. Such monitors include cathode ray tube (CRT) displays, as well as flat panel displays such as liquid crystal displays (LCD's). Pointing device **314** permits the control of the screen pointer provided by the graphical user interfaces. The invention is not limited to any particular pointing device **314**. Such pointing devices include mouses, touch pads, trackballs, wheels, remote controls and point sticks. Finally, keyboard **316** permits entry of textual information into computer **310**, as known within the art, and the invention is not limited to any particular type of keyboard.

Although specific embodiments have been illustrated and described herein, it will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art that any arrangement which is calculated to achieve the same purpose can be substituted for the specific embodiments shown. This application is intended to cover any adaptations or variations of the invention. It is manifestly intended that this invention be limited only by the following claims and equivalents thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:

a user platform to authenticate information by using a transformation value generated from the information, where the platform lacks a public key related to the information;

a communication channel; and

a remote platform coupled to the user platform by the communication channel and the remote platform to transmit the information to the user platform via the communication channel.

2. The system of claim **1**, wherein the platform is to authenticate the information by comparing a transformation value received from a user to the transformation value generated from the information.

3. The system of claim **1**, wherein the platform is to authenticate the information by displaying the transformation value generated from the information and requesting that the user match the transformation value generated from the information to a transformation value known to the user.

4. A system comprising:

a user platform that lacks a public key for information accompanying a credential and that is capable of ensuring that the information accompanying the credential is authorized by using a transformation value generated from the credential;

a communication channel; and

a remote platform coupled to the user platform by the communication channel and the remote platform to transmit the information and the credential to the user platform via the communication channel.

5. The system of claim **4**, wherein the user platform is to ensure that the information is authorized by comparing a transformation value received from a user to the transformation value generated from the credential.

6. The system of claim **4**, wherein the user platform is to ensure that the information is authorized by displaying the transformation value generated from the credential and requesting that a user match the transformation value generated from the credential with a transformation value known to the user.

7. The system of claim **4**, wherein the credential includes a transformation value for the information, and the user platform is to check the integrity of the information by comparing a transformation value generated from the information to a transformation value contained in the credential.

8. A system comprising:

a user platform that lacks a public key for information accompanying a credential having a credential subset and that is capable of ensuring that the information accompanying the credential is authorized by using a transformation value generated from the credential subset;

a communication channel; and

a remote platform coupled to the user platform by the communication channel and the remote platform to transmit the credential to the user platform via the communication channel.

9. The system of claim **8**, wherein the platform is to ensure authority for information accompanying the credential by comparing a transformation value received from a user to the transformation value generated from the subset.

10. The system of claim **8**, wherein the platform is to ensure authority for information accompanying the credential by displaying the transformation value generated from the subset and requesting that the user match the transformation value generated from the subset with a transformation value known to the user.

11. The system of claim **8**, wherein the credential includes a transformation value for the information, and the user platform is to check the information for integrity by comparing a transformation value generated form the information to the transformation value included in the credential.

12. The system of claim **8**, wherein the credential includes a digital signature, and the user platform is to derive a public key from the credential subset, and the user platform is to check the credential for integrity by verifying the digital signature using the public key.

13. A method comprising:

receiving information;

computing a transformation value for the information; and

authenticating the information without a public key by using the transformation value.

14. The method of claim **13**, wherein receiving information comprises receiving information that is a request for a change to a platform configuration parameter.

15. The method of claim **13**, wherein computing a transformation value for the information comprises computing a hash of the information.

16. The method of claim **13**, wherein authenticating the information without a public key by using the transformation value comprises:

receiving a transformation value from a user; and

comparing the transformation value to the transformation value received from the user.

17. A method comprising:

receiving information and a credential;

computing a transformation value for the credential; and

verifying that the information is authorized by using the transformation value but without using a public key.

18. The method of claim **17**, wherein computing a transformation value for the credential comprises computing a transformation value comprising a hash of the credential.

19. The method of claim **17**, wherein verifying that the information is authorized by using the transformation value but without using a public key comprises: